AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. – 22. (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A gas generating composition having improved thermal stability, said composition comprising:

(a) from 10 to 60 weight-% of a tetrazole derivative selected from the group consisting of tetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole, 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazole, 5-nitroaminotetrazole, zinc salt of 5-aminotetrazole, copper salt of 5-aminotetrazole, bitetrazole, potassium salt of bitetrazole, sodium salt of bitetrazole, magnesium salt of bitetrazole, calcium salt of bitetrazole, diammonium salt of bitetrazole, copper salt of bitetrazole and melamine salt of bitetrazole or a guanidine derivative selected from the group consisting of guanidine, mono-, di-, or tri-aminoguanidine nitrate, guanidine nitrate, guanidine carbonate, nitroguanidine, dicyandiamide, nitroaminoguanidine, and nitroaminoguanidine nitrate; and

(b) from 40 to 90 weight-% of a basic metal nitrate having a decomposition temperature or ignition property improving particle diameter in the range 0.5 to 40 μm.

24. (previously presented) The gas generating composition of claim 23, further comprising (c) a binder and/or a slag-forming agent.

25. – 28. (cancelled).

29. (previously presented) A gas generating composition as in claim 23, said composition having at least one feature selected from the following features (1) to (3):

(1) a weight loss ratio of the gas generating composition, when the gas generating composition is retained in a closed state at 90°C for 1,000 hours or at 110°C for 400 hours, of 2.0 % or less,

(2) concentrations of trace gases contained in a gas generated by the combustion of the gas generating composition, as values measured in a 2,800-liter tank, of 400 ppm or less for CO, 40 ppm or less for NO, 8 ppm or less for NO_2 and 100 ppm or less for NH_3, and

(3) a maximum internal pressure in a gas generator on the combustion of the gas generating composition of 7,840 to 22,500 kPa.

30. (previously presented) The gas generating composition of claim 29, further comprising (c) a binder and/or a slag-forming agent.

31. – 33. (cancelled).

34. (previously presented) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claims 23 or 29, wherein the basic metal nitrate as component (b) is at least one selected from the group consisting of a basic copper nitrate, a basic cobalt nitrate, a basic zinc nitrate, a basic manganese nitrate, a basic iron nitrate, a basic molybdenum nitrate, a basic bismuth nitrate and a basic cerium nitrate.

35. – 38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claims 24 or 30, wherein the binder as component (c) is not crosslinkable.

40. (previously presented) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the binder and/or the slag-forming agent as component (c) is a member selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide

and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

41. – 49. (cancelled).

50. (withdrawn) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 24, which comprises (a) nitroguanidine, (b) a basic copper nitrate and (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

51. (withdrawn) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 50, which comprises 15 to 55 % by weight of (a) nitroguanidine, 45 to 70 % by weight of (b) a basic copper nitrate and 0.1 to 15 % by weight of (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

52. (withdrawn) The gas generating composition as claimed in claim 24, which comprises (a) nitroguanidine, (b) a basic copper nitrate, (c-1) sodium carboxymethylcellulose and a second binder or slag-forming agent (c-2) selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

53. – 64. (cancelled).

65. (withdrawn) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 24, which comprises (a) dicyandiamide, (b) a basic copper nitrate, (c-1) sodium carboxymethylcellulose and a second binder or slag-forming agent (c-2) selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

66. (cancelled).

67. (currently amended) A gas generating composition comprising:

(a) guanidine nitrate;[[,]]

(b) a basic copper nitrate; and

(c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

68. (previously presented) The gas generating composition as claimed in Claim 67, which comprises 15 to 60 % by weight of (a) guanidine nitrate, 40 to 70 % by weight of (b) a basic copper nitrate and 0.1 to 15 % by weight of (c) sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

69. (withdrawn) A gas generating composition according to Claim 68, comprising (a) guanidine nitrate, (b) a basic copper nitrate, (c-1) sodium carboxymethylcellulose and a second

binder or slag-forming agent (c-2) selected from the group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, potassium carboxymethylcellulose, ammonium carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetatebutyrate, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethylethyl cellulose, fine crystalline cellulose, polyacrylic amide, aminated compounds of polyacrylic amide, polyacrylic hydrazide, a copolymer of an acrylic amide and a metal salt of acrylic acid, a copolymer of polyacrylic amide and polyacrylic ester, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylic rubber, guar gum, starch, polysaccharides, silicone, molybdenum disulfide, Japanese acid clay, talc, bentonite, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, calcium stearate, silica, alumina, sodium silicate, silicon nitrate, silicon carbide, hydrotalcite, mica, a metal oxide, a metal hydroxide, a metal carbonate, a basic metal carbonate and a molybdate.

70. – 72. (cancelled).

73. (previously presented) A molded article in the form of a single-perforated cylinder, a porous cylinder, or pellets, wherein said molded article comprises a gas generating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 23, 24, 29, 30, 67, 68, or 69.

74. (cancelled).

75. (currently amended) A gas generating composition having improved thermal stability, said composition comprising:

(a) a tetrazole derivative selected from the group consisting of tetrazole, 5-aminotetrazole, 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazole, 5-nitroaminotetrazole, zinc salt of 5-aminotetrazole, copper salt of 5-aminotetrazole, bitetrazole, potassium salt of bitetrazole, sodium salt of bitetrazole, magnesium salt of bitetrazole, calcium salt of bitetrazole, diammonium salt of bitetrazole, copper salt of bitetrazole and melamine salt of bitetrazole or a guanidine derivative selected from the group consisting of guanidine, mono-, di-, or tri-aminoguanidine nitrate, guanidine nitrate, guanidine carbonate, nitroguanidine, dicyandiamide, nitroaminoguanidine, and nitroaminoguanidine nitrate;

and

(b) a basic metal nitrate having a decomposition temperature or ignition property improving particle diameter in the range 0.5 to 40 μm.

76. (withdrawn) The molded article of Claim 73, obtained by mixing said gas generating composition with water to obtain a mixture, and then molding the mixture by extrusion-molding to obtain said single-perforated cylinder or porous cylinder or compression-molding the mixture to obtain said pellets.

77. (withdrawn) The molded article of Claim 73, having a shape of a single-perforated cylinder, a porous cylinder, or a pellet.